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SONIC

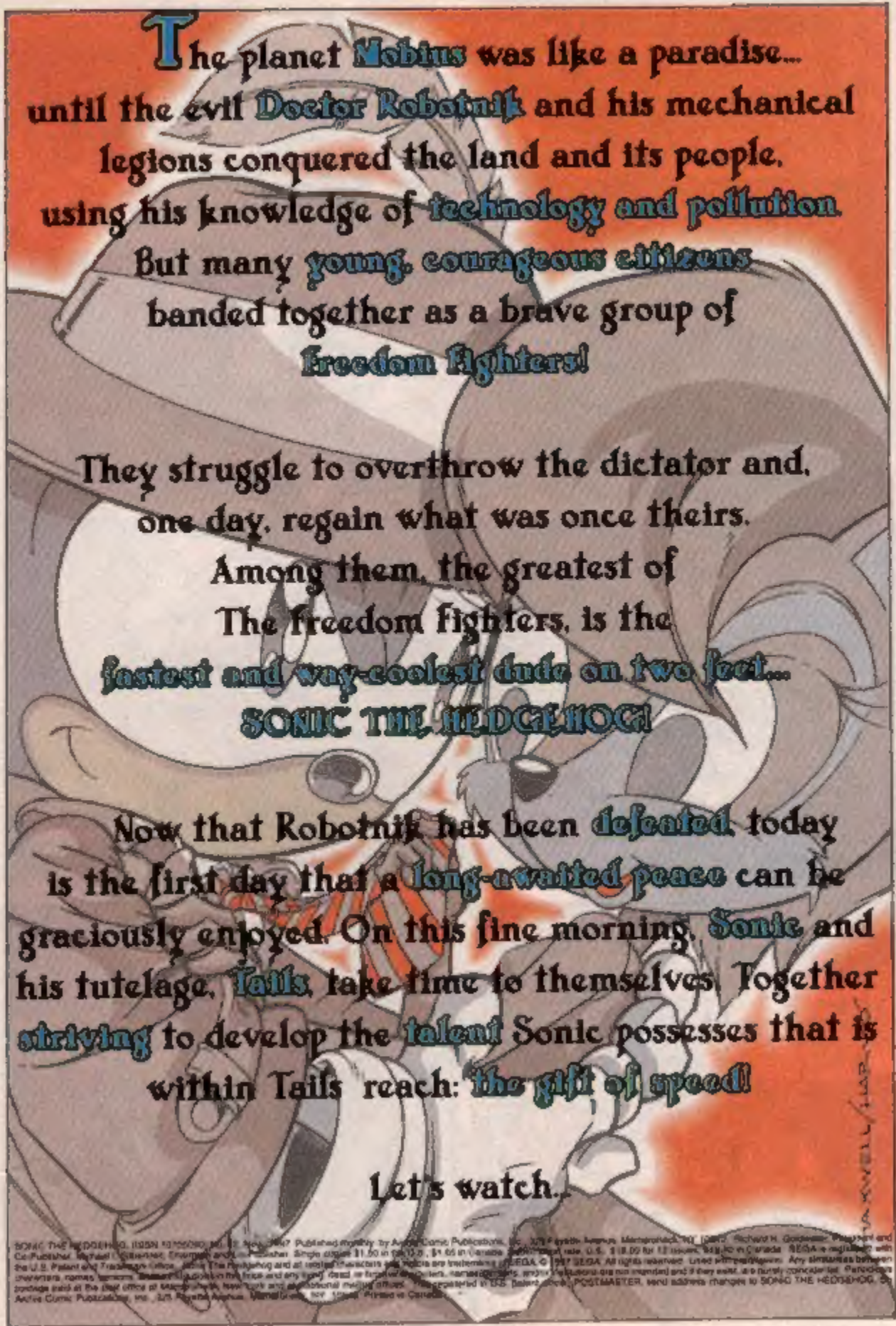
THE HEDGEHOG

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

46977

Turtling
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SPAZ
FAN



The planet **Nebius** was like a paradise...
until the evil **Doctor Robotnik** and his mechanical
legions conquered the land and its people,
using his knowledge of **technology and pollution**.
But many **young, courageous citizens**
banded together as a brave group of
Freedom Fighters!

They struggle to overthrow the dictator and,
one day, regain what was once theirs.

Among them, the greatest of
The Freedom Fighters, is the
fastest and way-coolest dude on two feet...
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

Now that Robotnik has been **defeated**, today
is the first day that a **long-awaited peace** can be
graciously enjoyed. On this fine morning, **Sonic** and
his tutelage, **Tails**, take time to themselves. Together
striving to develop the **talent** Sonic possesses that is
within Tails' reach: **the gift of speed!**

Let's watch...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, ISSN 1070-0000, Vol. 12, No. 1, 1997. Published monthly by Archie Comics Publications, Inc., 375 Seventh Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55412. Richard H. Goldstein, President and Co-Publisher. Michael C. Silverstein, Editor and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.00 in the U.S., \$1.65 in Canada. Subscription rate, U.S. \$18.00 for 12 issues. \$24.00 in Canada. SEGA is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sonic the Hedgehog and all related characters and motifs are trademarks of SEGA. © 1997 SEGA. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Any similarities between characters, names, locations, events, situations in this book and any third party's used or implied characters, names, locations, events, situations are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Parodies or parodies paid at the time of publication, New York and occasional mailing offices. Registered in U.S. Patent Office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comics Publications, Inc., 375 Seventh Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55412. Printed in Canada.

IN THIS TIME OF RESTORED PEACE, SONIC TAKES ON THE ROLE OF MENTOR AND INSTRUCTS YOUNG TAILS IN THE WAYS OF SPEED. BESIDES FREEDOM, LIKE A NICE DAY, IS SOMETHING TO BE ENJOYED.

CONCENTRATION IS EVERYTHING, TAILS.

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?

WHAT...?

WHOA!


I DON'T KNOW WHOSE LITTLE SCHEME THIS IS, BUT IT SURE IS CHEEZY LOOKIN'.

I'D BETTER CHECK THIS OUT AND SEE FOR MYSELF.

DO YOU THINK IT'S SAFE?


I DON'T KNOW, YOU JUST GO BACK AND TELL THE OTHERS.

I'M ALREADY GONE.

Sonic the Hedgehog is running through a stream in a lush green forest. He is looking back over his shoulder with a determined expression. A bright yellow energy trail is visible in the background, following a path through the trees. A speech bubble above him says, "I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THIS PART OF THE FOREST BEFORE."


I'VE NEVER
BEEN TO THIS PART
OF THE FOREST
BEFORE.

GOSH
THAT THING
IS FAST!

Sonic is running on a grassy hill, looking towards a cave entrance in the distance. The yellow energy trail continues to lead towards the cave. A speech bubble above him says, "IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT INTO THAT CAVE!".

IT'S HEADING
STRAIGHT INTO THAT
CAVE!

I'D BETTER
BE CAREFUL. DON'T
WANT ANYONE
GETTING THE DROP
ON ME INSIDE
THERE.

Sonic is standing near the entrance of a cave, looking slightly nervous. A speech bubble above him says, "HERE GOES NOTHIN!".

HERE
GOES
NOTHIN'!



IN ANOTHER TIME,
ANOTHER PLACE...

THE DISCOVERY

ZONE
PART 4

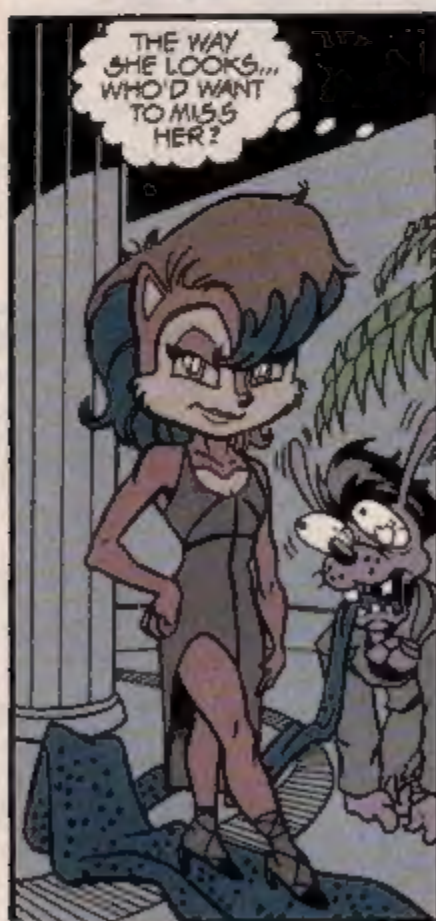
PEOPLE COME TO THIS CLASSY
ESTABLISHMENT TO DANCE,
AND GET AWAY FROM THE EVIL
DOCTOR AND HIS ROBOTIC ARMY.
THIS IS A SAFE HAVEN FOR THE
PEOPLE OF THIS CITY. FOR THIS IS
ONE PLACE THE DOCTOR'S ALL
SEEING EYES AND LISTENING EARS
ARE NOT.

WHARF SIDE
DANCE HALL

NO
ROBOTS

THE VOICE ON
THE PHONE SAID
THEY WOULDN'T
BE MISSED. WE'LL
SEE.

♦SCRIPT, TOM BULSTON♦PENCILER, MANNY GALAN♦INKER, JIM SMASH♦COLORIST, HARL BOLLERS♦LETTERER, JEFF POWELL♦
♦EDITOR, J. FREDDY GARRIG♦MANAGING EDITOR, VICTOR GARLICH♦EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, RICHARD GOLDWATER♦



I KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO HAS THE POWER AND INFORMATION TO RID MOBIUS OF THAT HORRIBLE DOCTOR ROBOTNIK FOREVER...

...AND STOP HIM FROM TURNING GOOD PEOPLE INTO ROBOT SLAVES.

UH, I'M LISTENING. CONTINUE, PLEASE.

ALL SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TO DO IS FIND MY FRIEND NICOLE...

...BRING HER BACK TO ME...

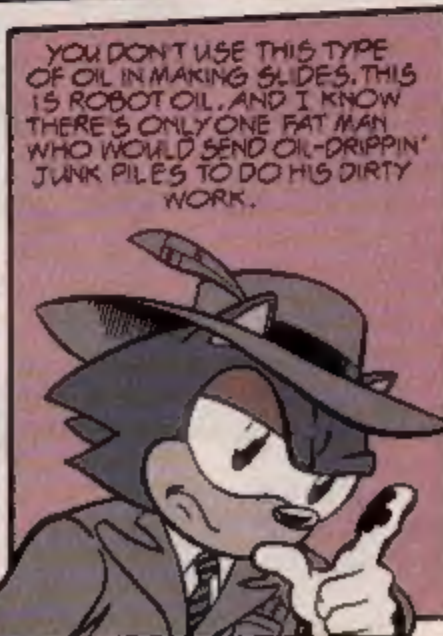
...AND COLLECT A NICE, BIG, JUICY REWARD.

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A MAN!

"SHE WAS LAST SEEN AT THE SLIPPY DIPPY SLIDE FACTORY, ON THE WEST SIDE!"

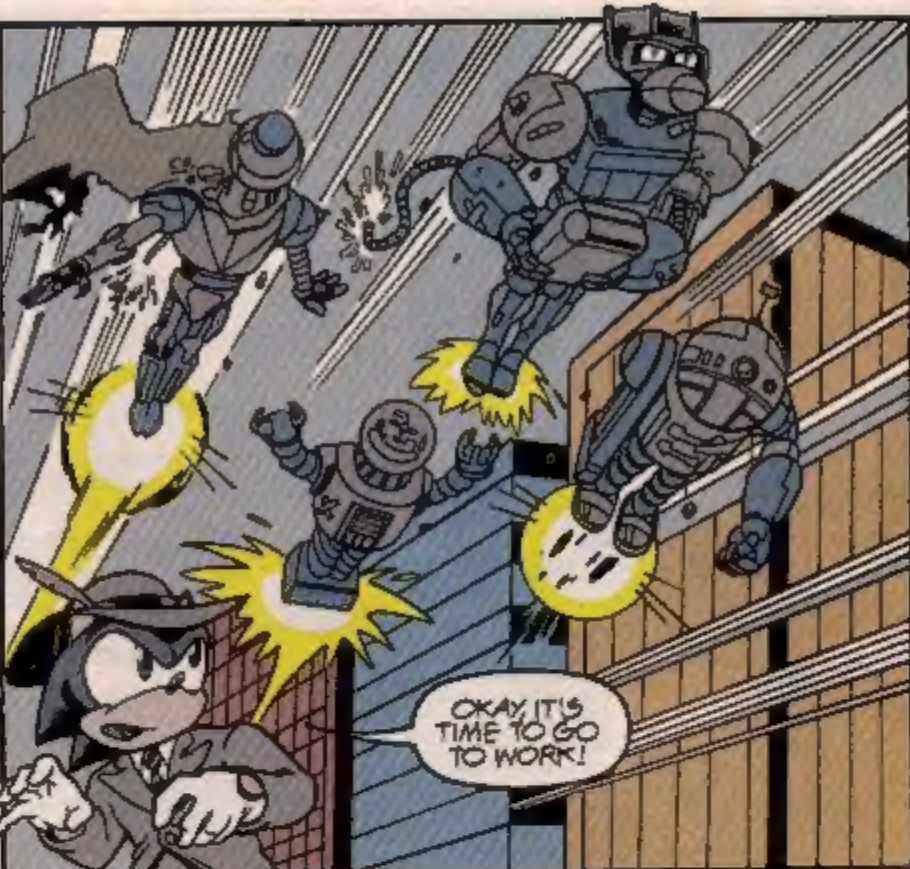
I'LL HAVE HER BACK IN YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HANDS IN NO TIME!

ZIP!





THEY'RE HEADING
FOR THE HEART OF
THE CITY GOTTA GET
UNDER 'EM FAST
BEFORE THEY ENTER
ROBOTNIK'S CONTROL
RANGE!



OKAY, IT'S
TIME TO GO
TO WORK!

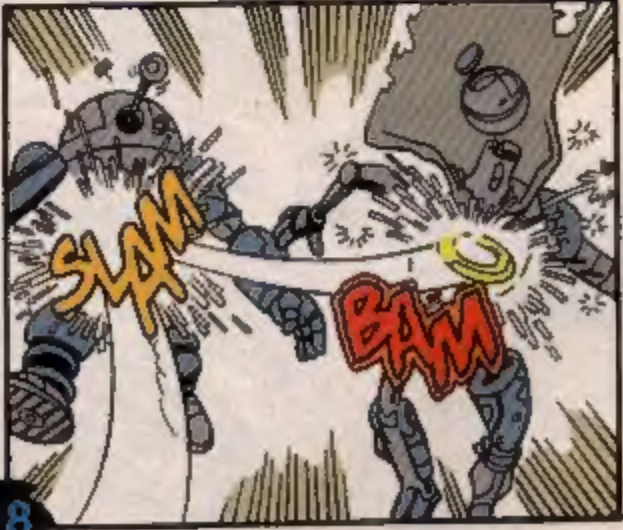
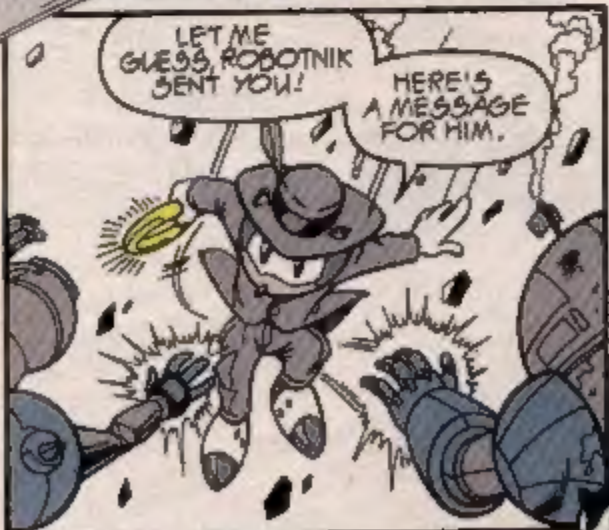
BOOM

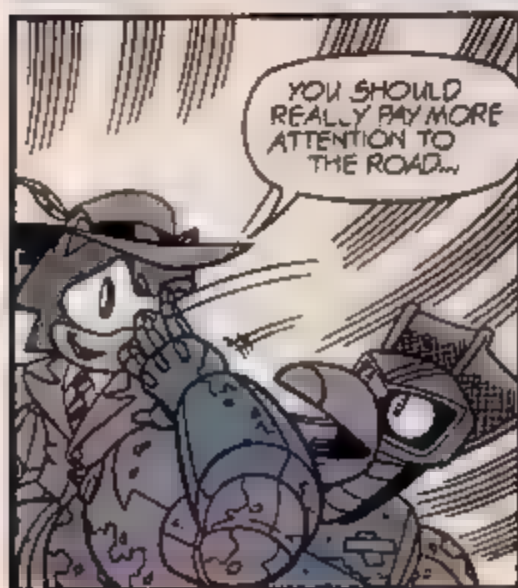
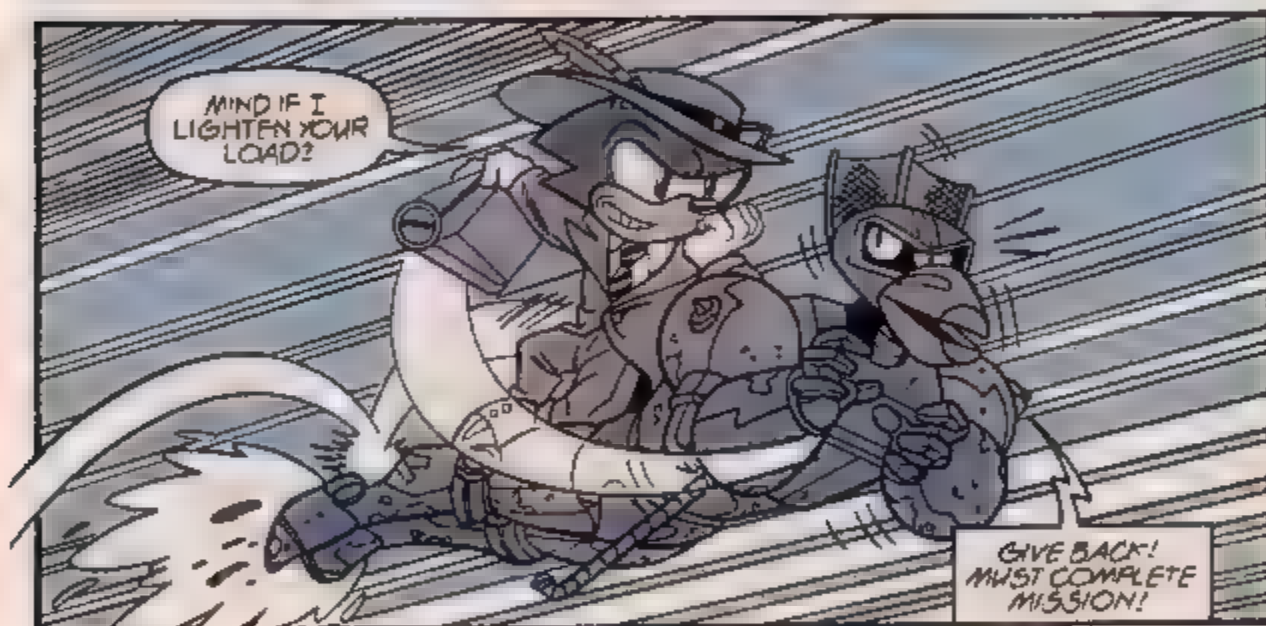
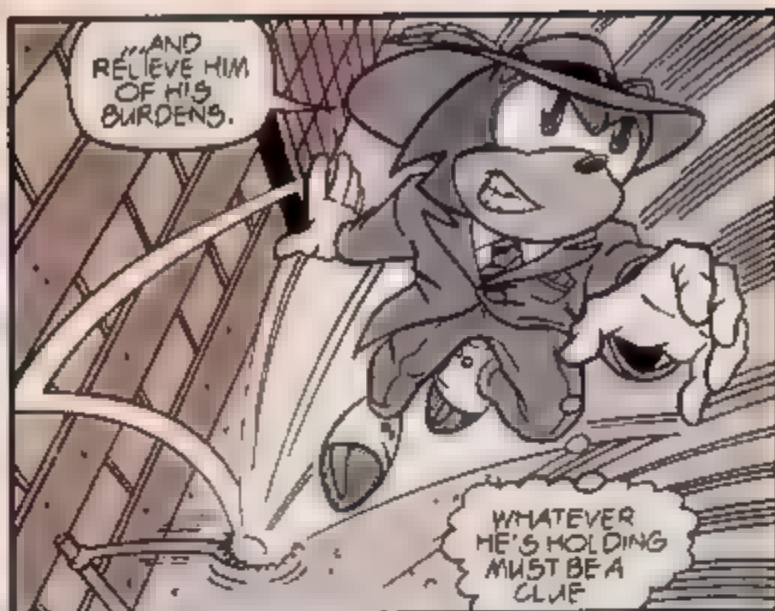
DANGER...
DANGER...

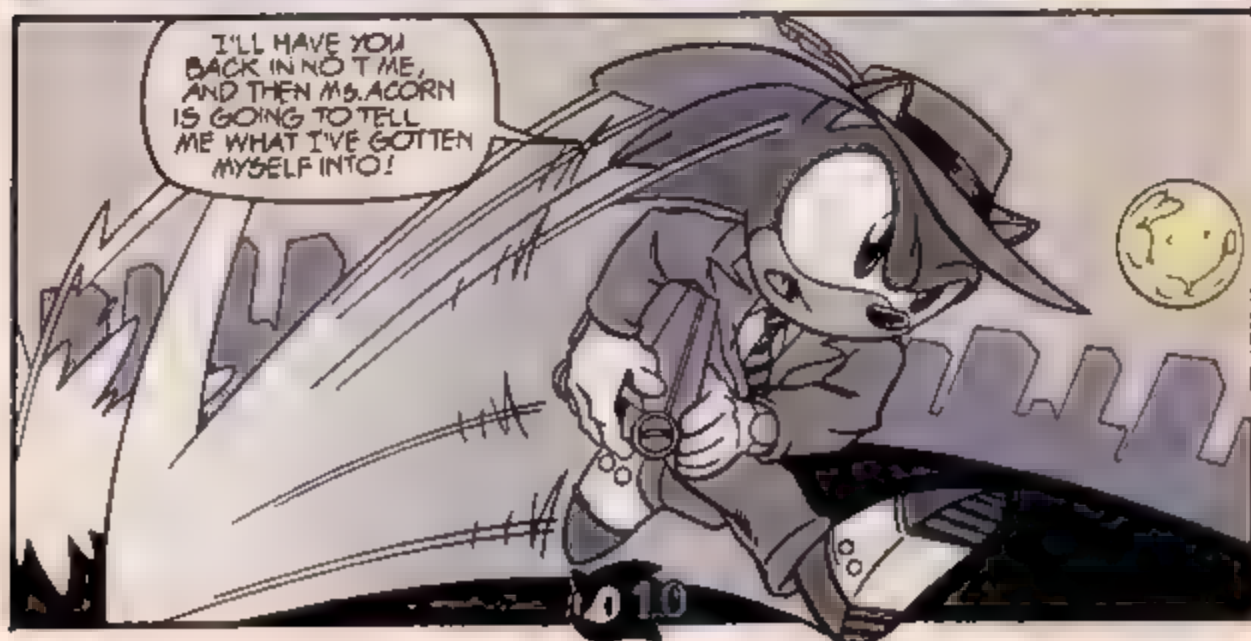
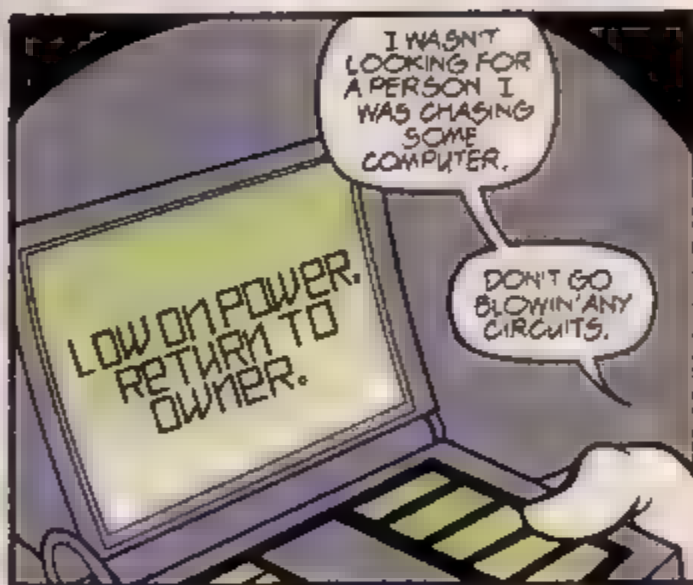
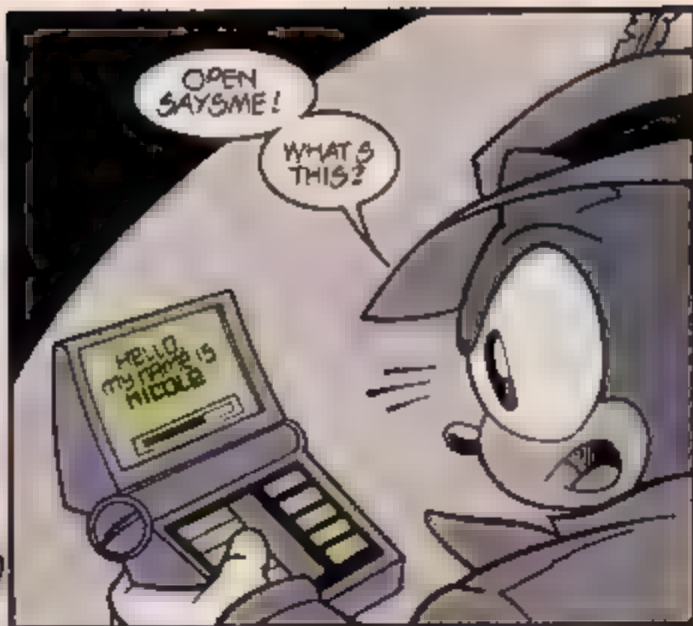
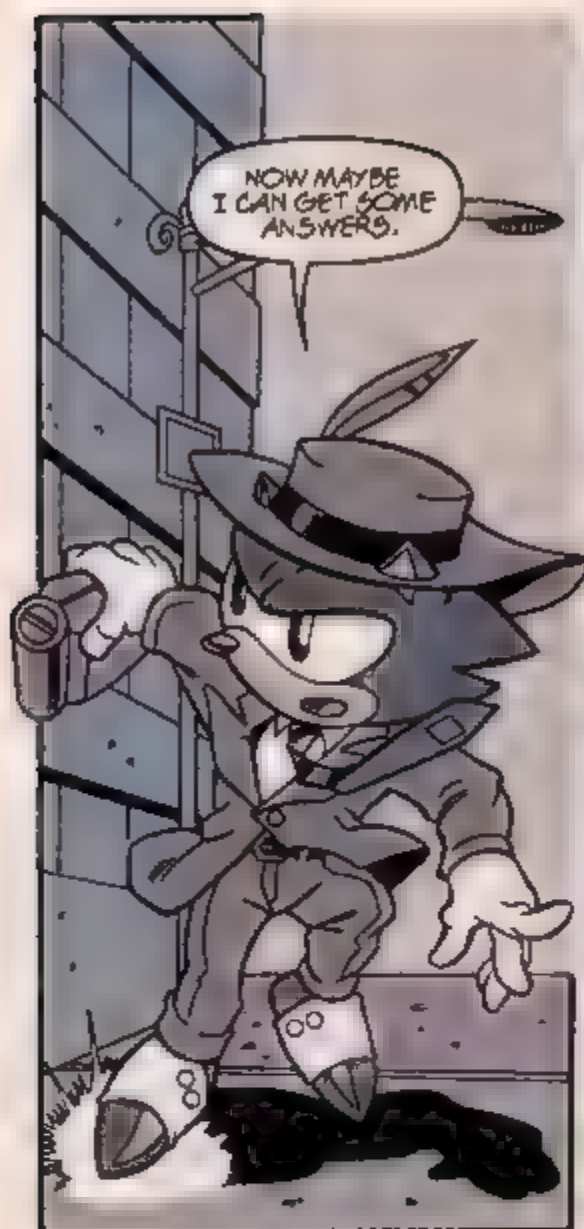
MUST
COMPLETE
MISSION!

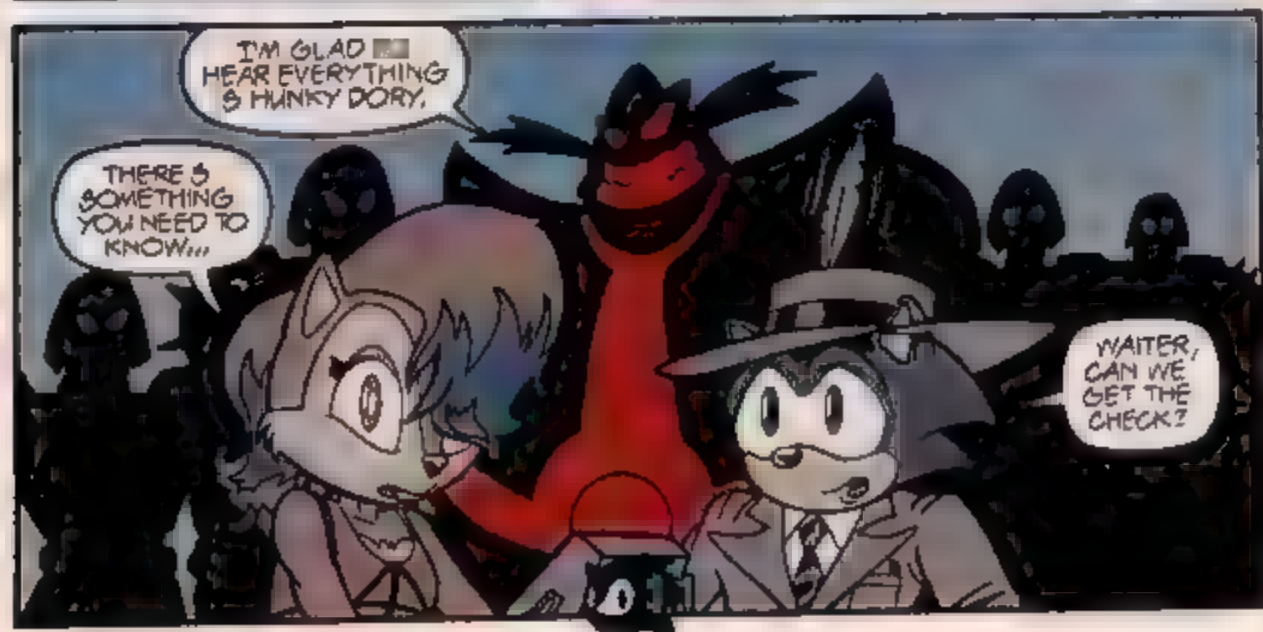
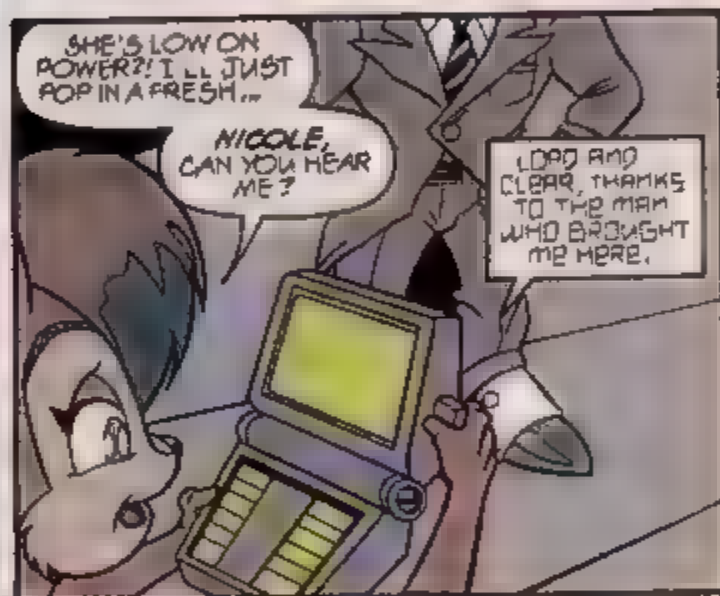
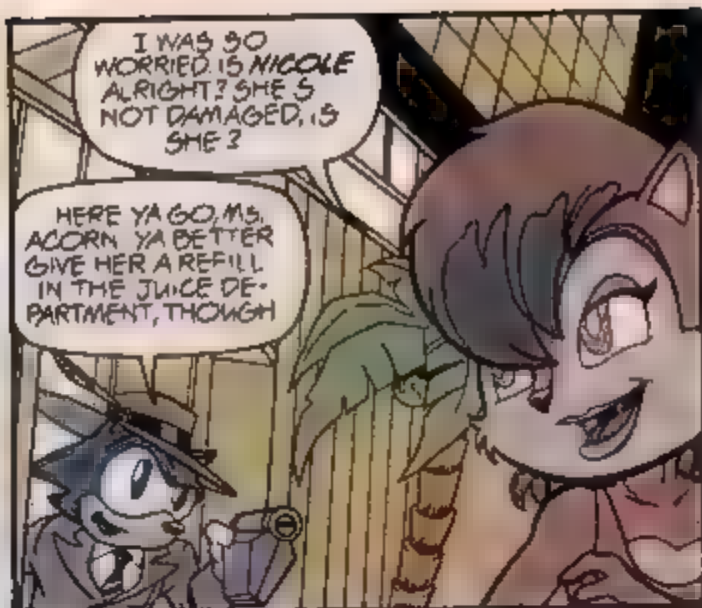
LET ME
GUESS, ROBOTNIK
SENT YOU!

HERE'S
A MESSAGE
FOR HIM.







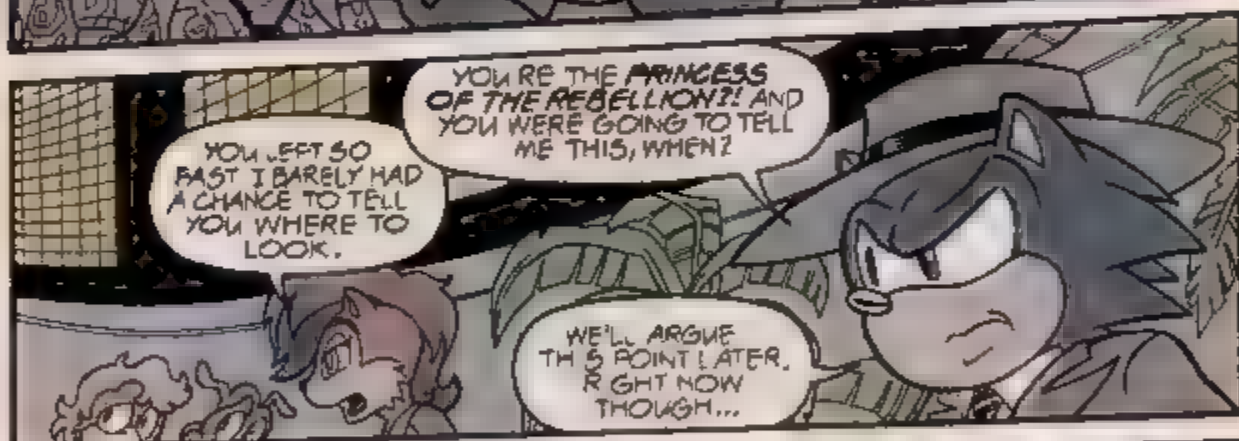




IT'S MORE LIKE TIME TO
PAY THE CHECK, HEDGEHOG YOU
DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU'RE
WORKING FOR, DO YOU? WELL,
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU
TO THE LEADER OF THE REBELLION,
"PRINCESS" SALLY!

AND THAT BOX
YOU WORKED SO HARD
TO DELIVER CONTAINS
THE PLANS TO EVERY
ONE OF MY RESEARCH
FACILITIES

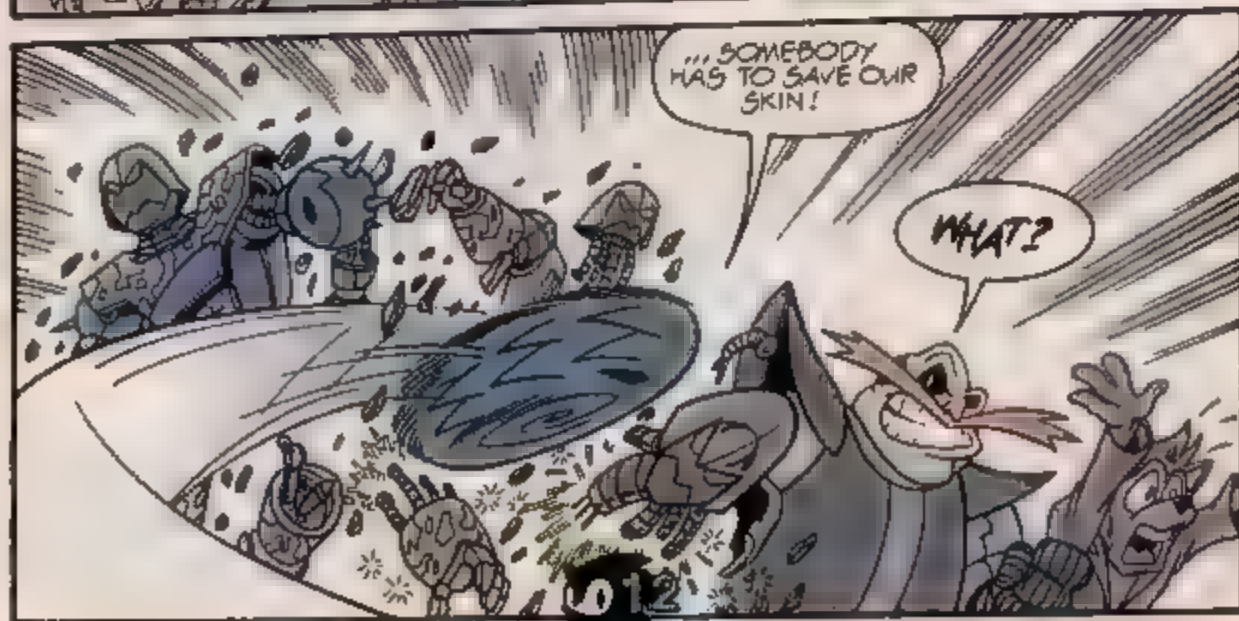
THAT
INFORMATION
COULD DESTROY
ME, BUT NOW
THAT I HAVE IT,
THERE'S NO NEED
FOR YOU TO
LIVE.



YOU LEFT SO
FAST I BARELY HAD
A CHANCE TO TELL
YOU WHERE TO
LOOK.

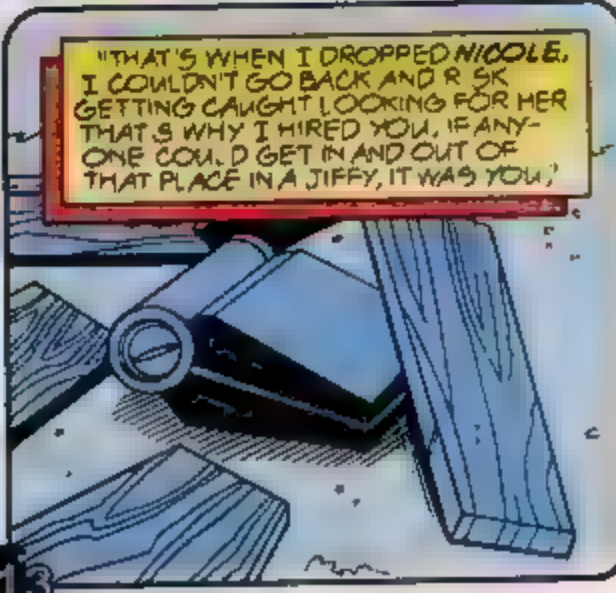
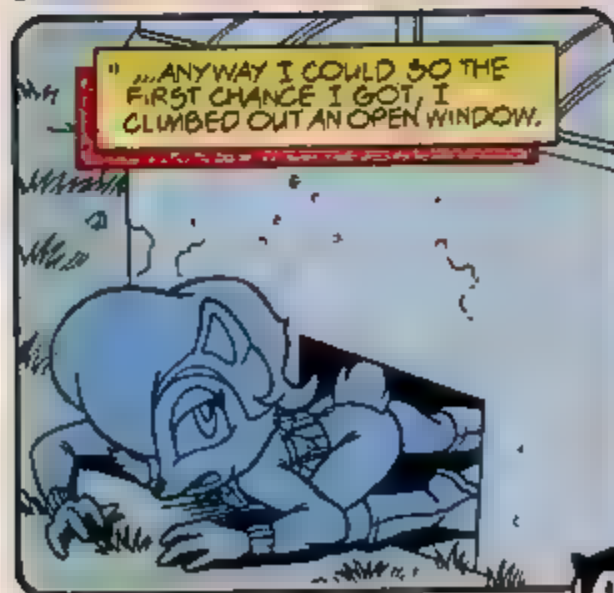
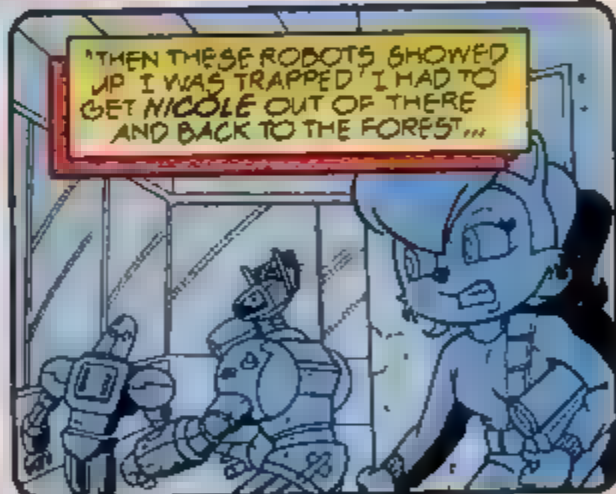
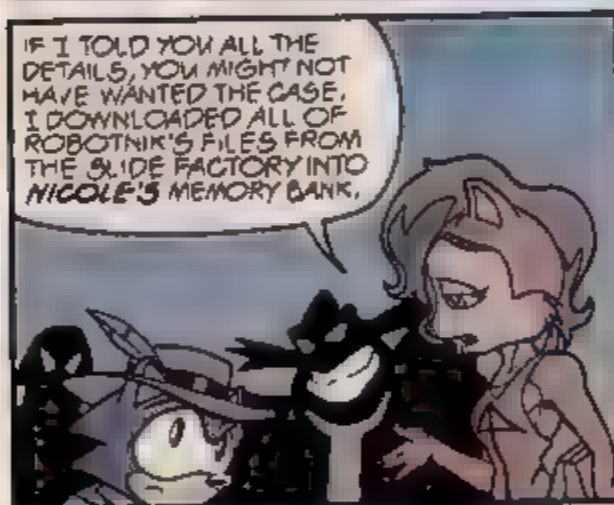
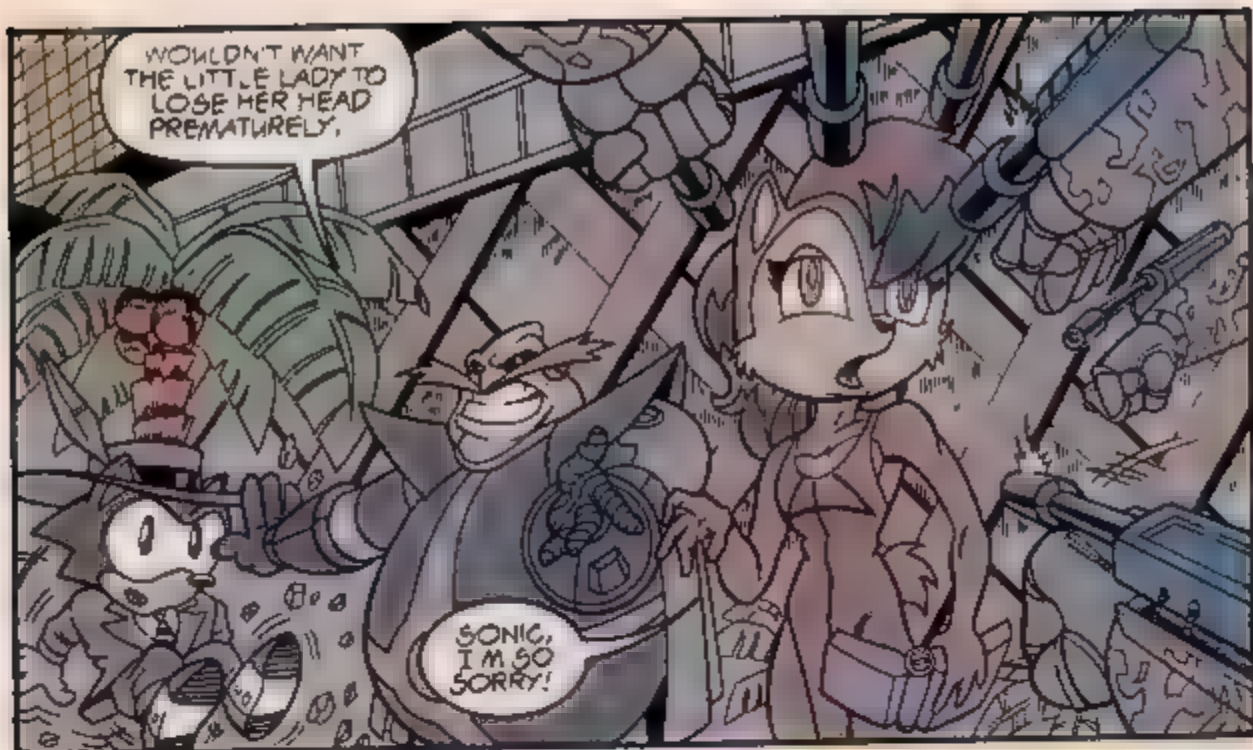
YOU'RE THE **PRINCESS
OF THE REBELLION**?! AND
YOU WERE GOING TO TELL
ME THIS, WHEN?

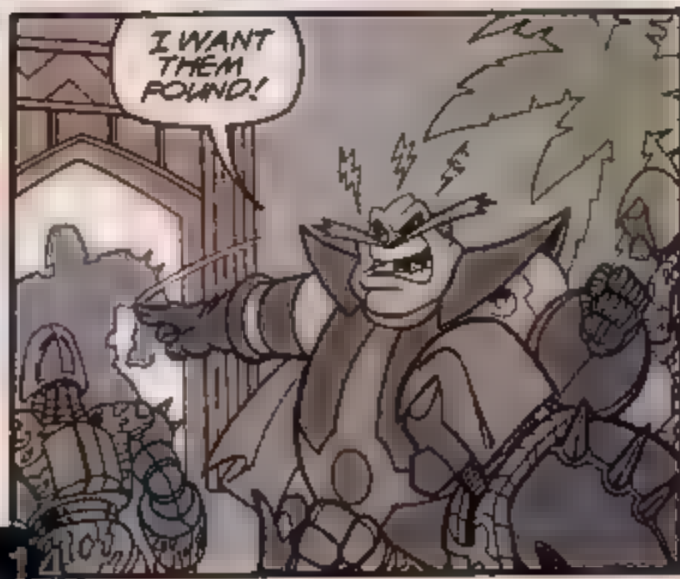
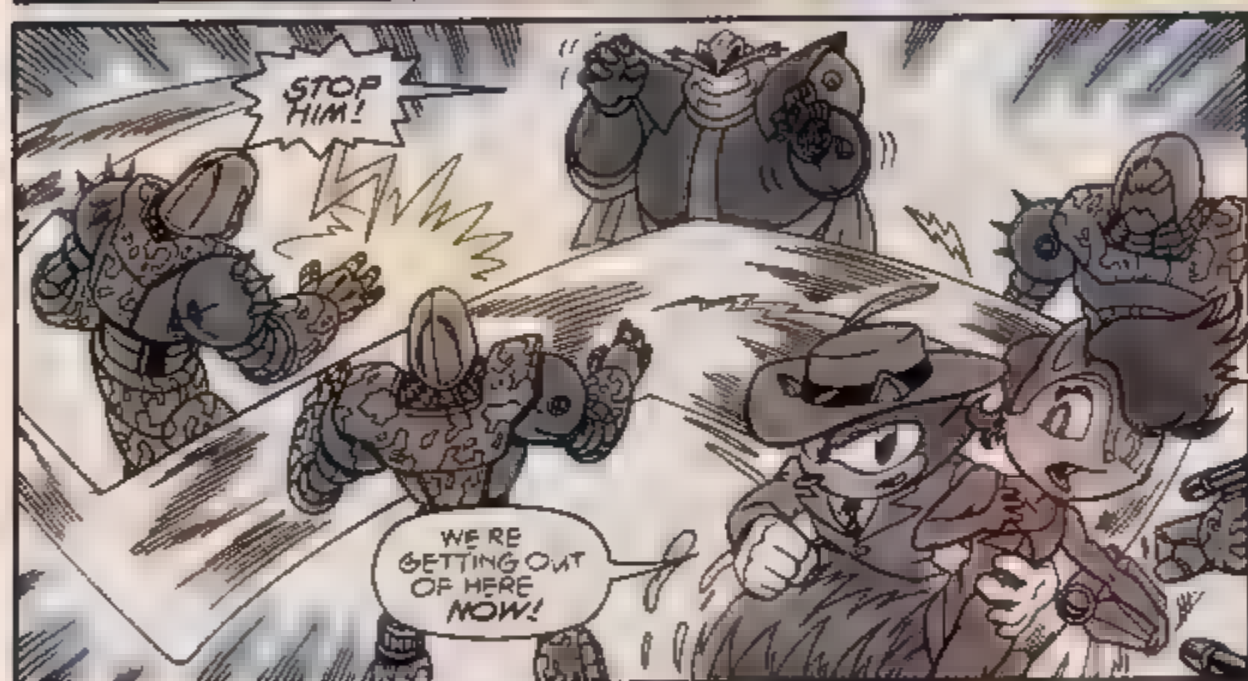
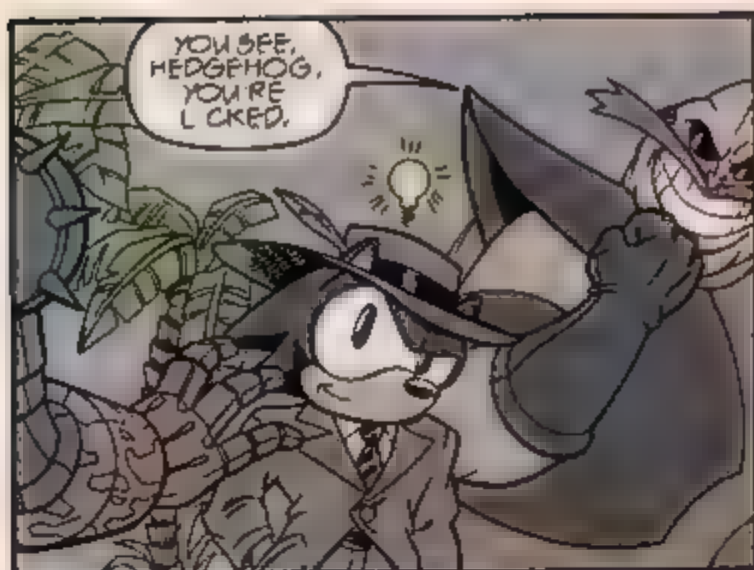
WE'LL ARGUE
THIS POINT LATER,
RIGHT NOW
THOUGH...



...SOMEBODY
HAS TO SAVE OUR
SKIN!

WHAT?

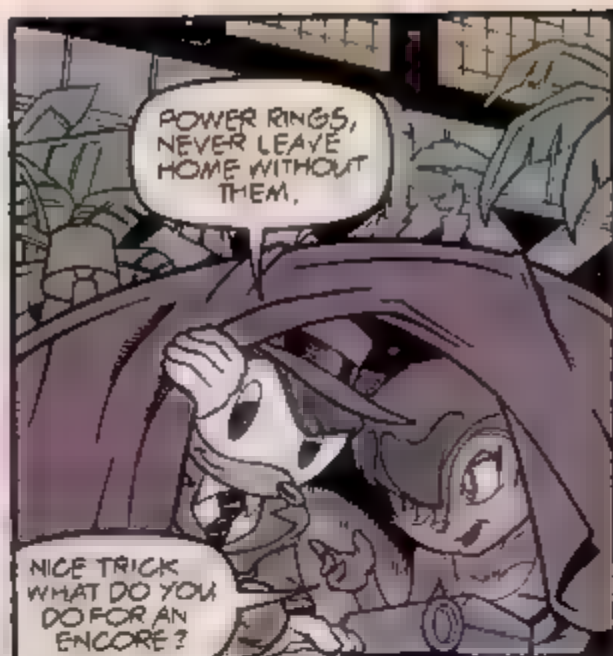






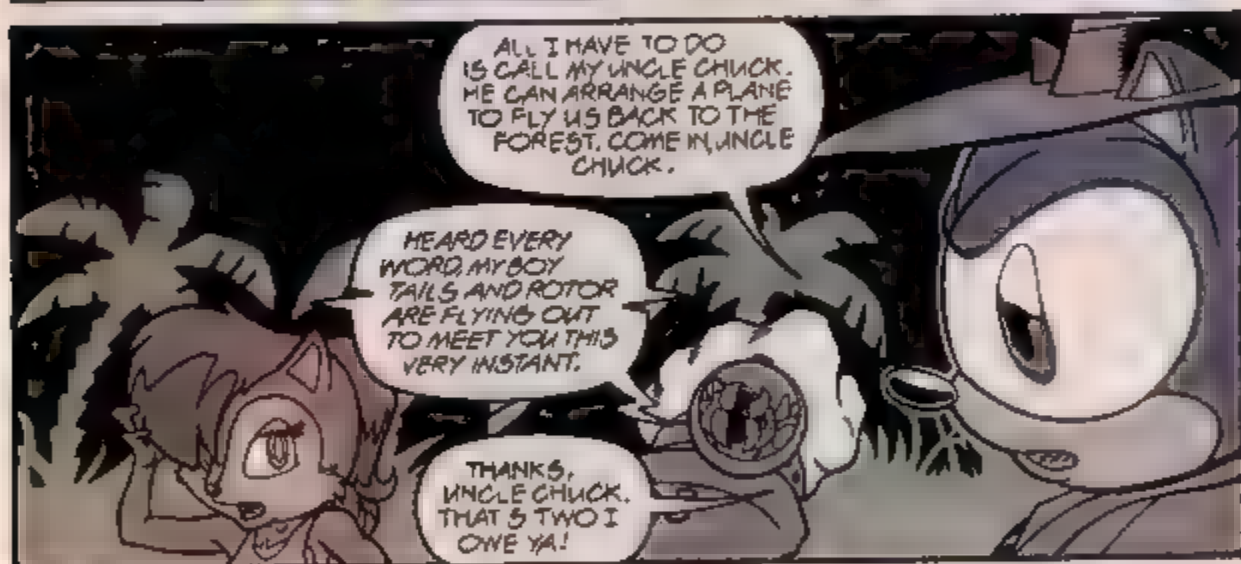
YOU MAY HAVE WON THIS ROUND BUT YOU CAN BET THERE *WILL* BE A NEXT TIME!

HOW I HATE HIM!



POWER RINGS, NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEM.

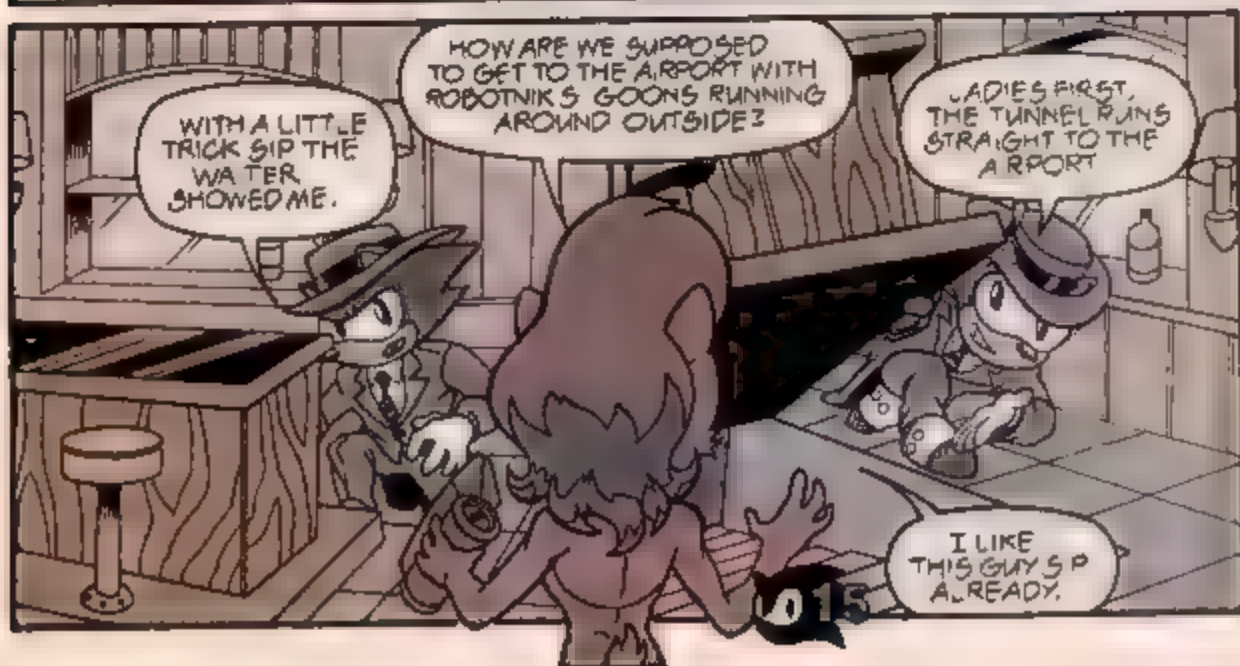
NICE TRICK WHAT DO YOU DO FOR AN ENCORE?



ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CALL MY UNCLE CHUCK. HE CAN ARRANGE A PLANE TO FLY US BACK TO THE FOREST. COME IN UNCLE CHUCK.

HEARD EVERY WORD, MY BOY. TAILS AND ROTOR ARE FLYING OUT TO MEET YOU THIS VERY INSTANT.

THANKS, UNCLE CHUCK. THAT'S TWO I OWE YA!

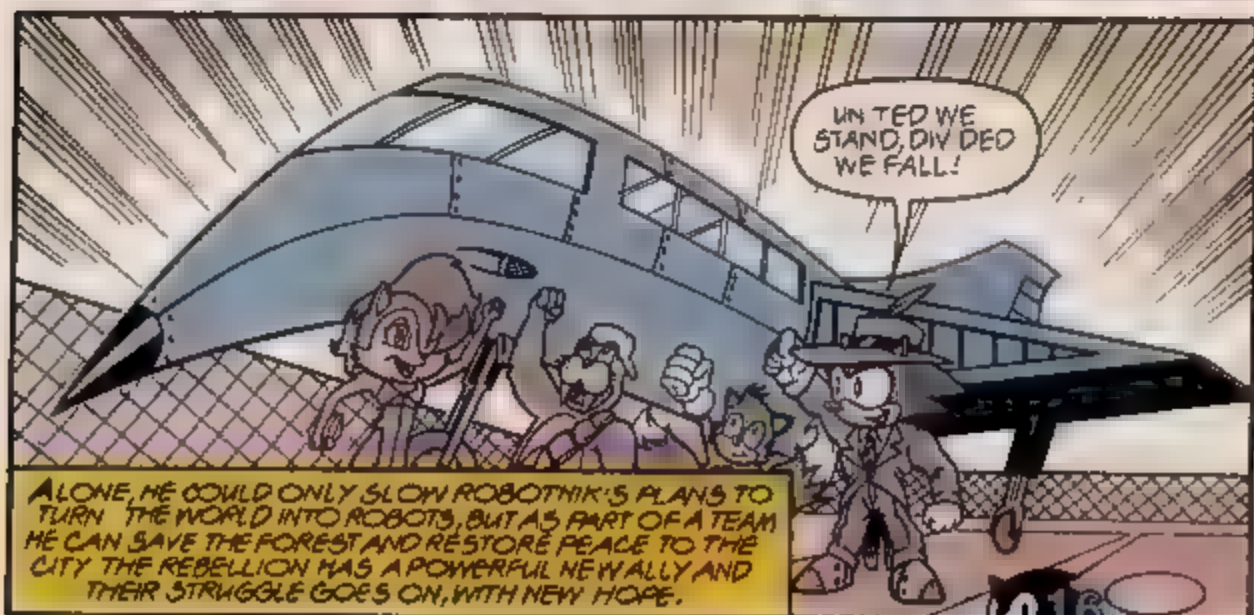
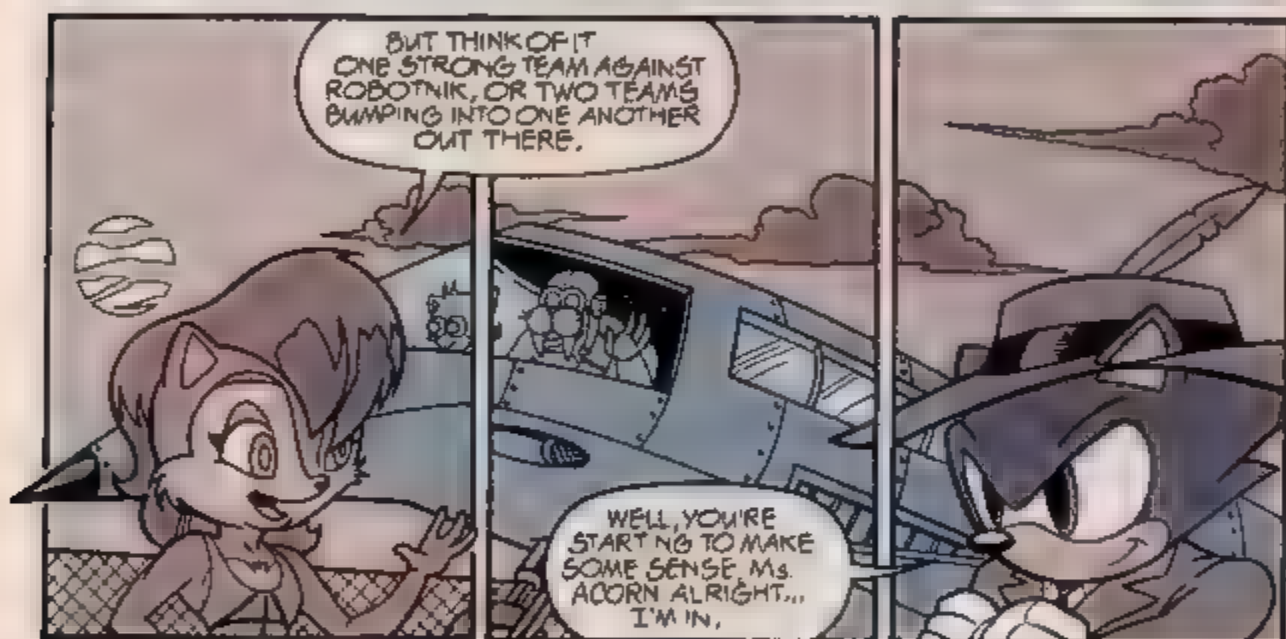
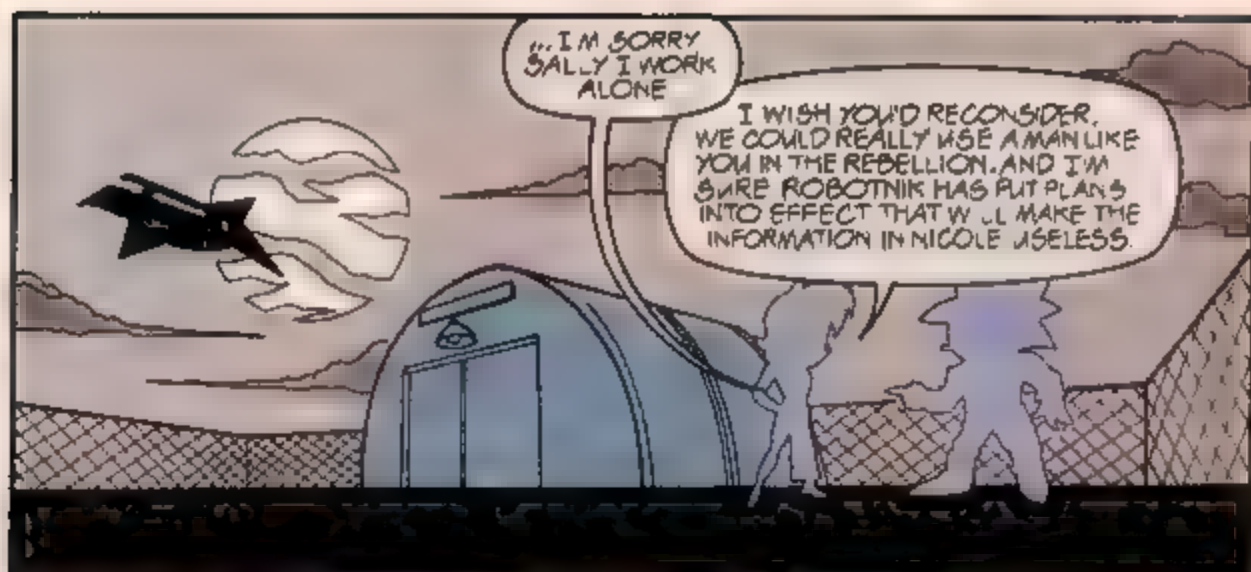


WITH A LITTLE TRICK SIP THE WATER SHOWED ME.

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET TO THE AIRPORT WITH ROBOTNIK'S GOONS RUNNING AROUND OUTSIDE?

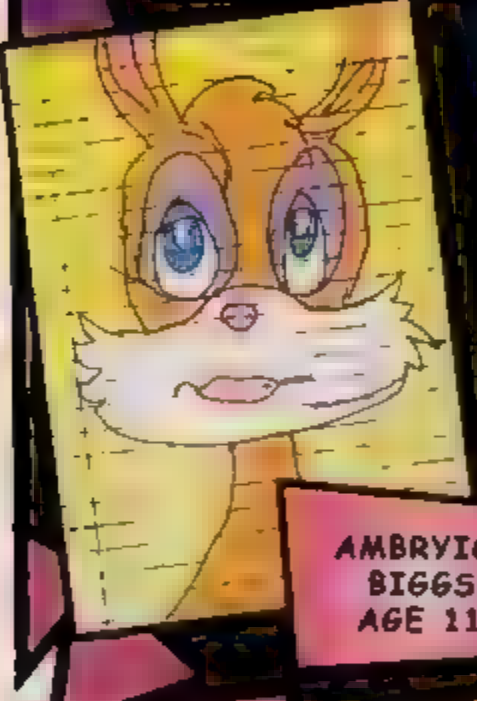
LADIES FIRST, THE TUNNEL RUNS STRAIGHT TO THE AIRPORT

I LIKE THIS GUY'S P.A. ALREADY.



NOELE CARBALLO
AGE 13

NOELE CARBALLO
AGE 13
CHANDLER, AZ

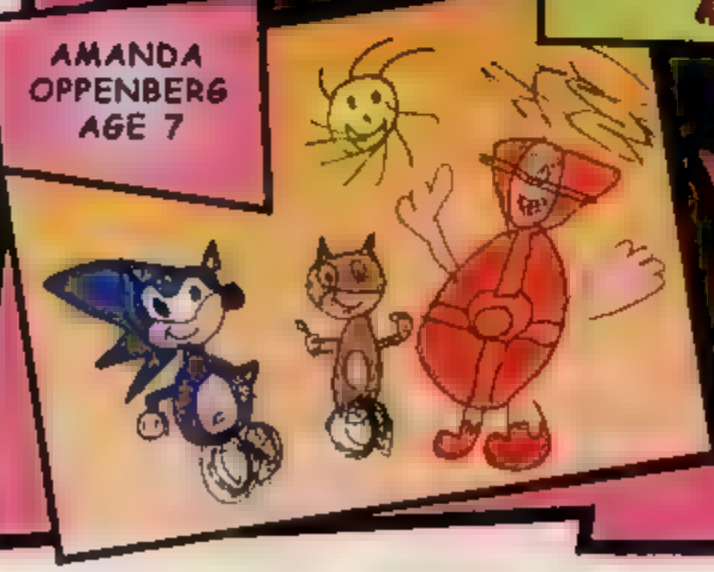


AMBRYICE
BIGGS
AGE 11



AUSTIN
ABBAMONTE
SUPERIOR, CO.

AMANDA
OPPENBERG
AGE 7



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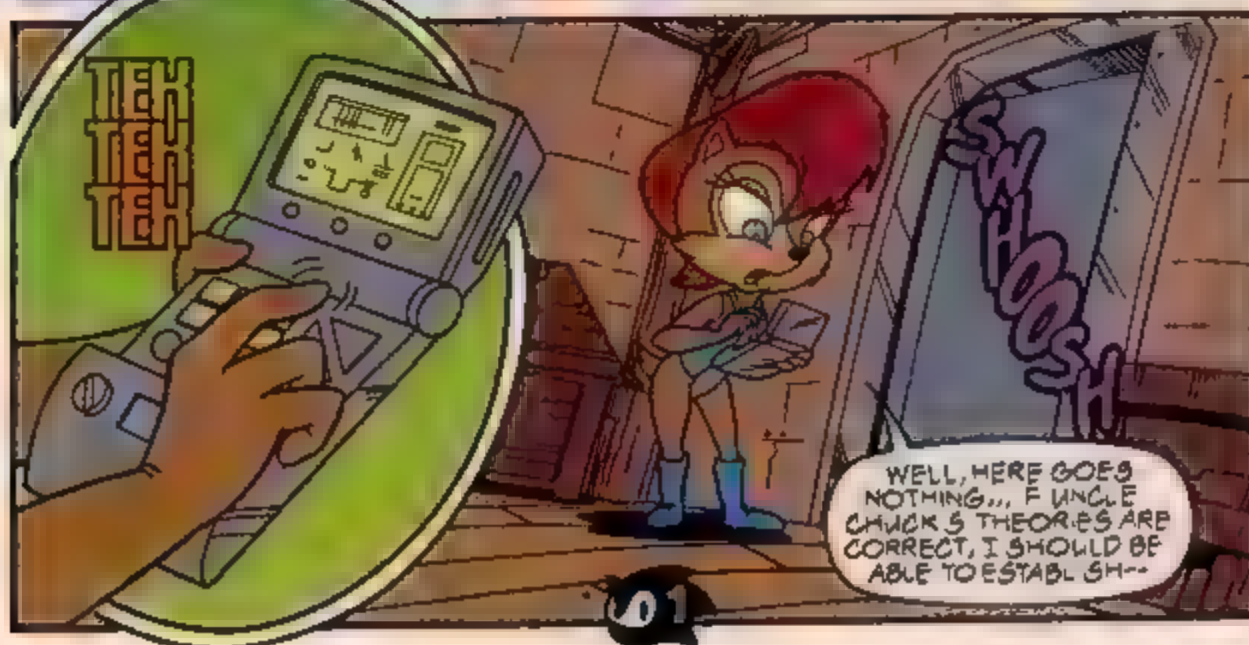
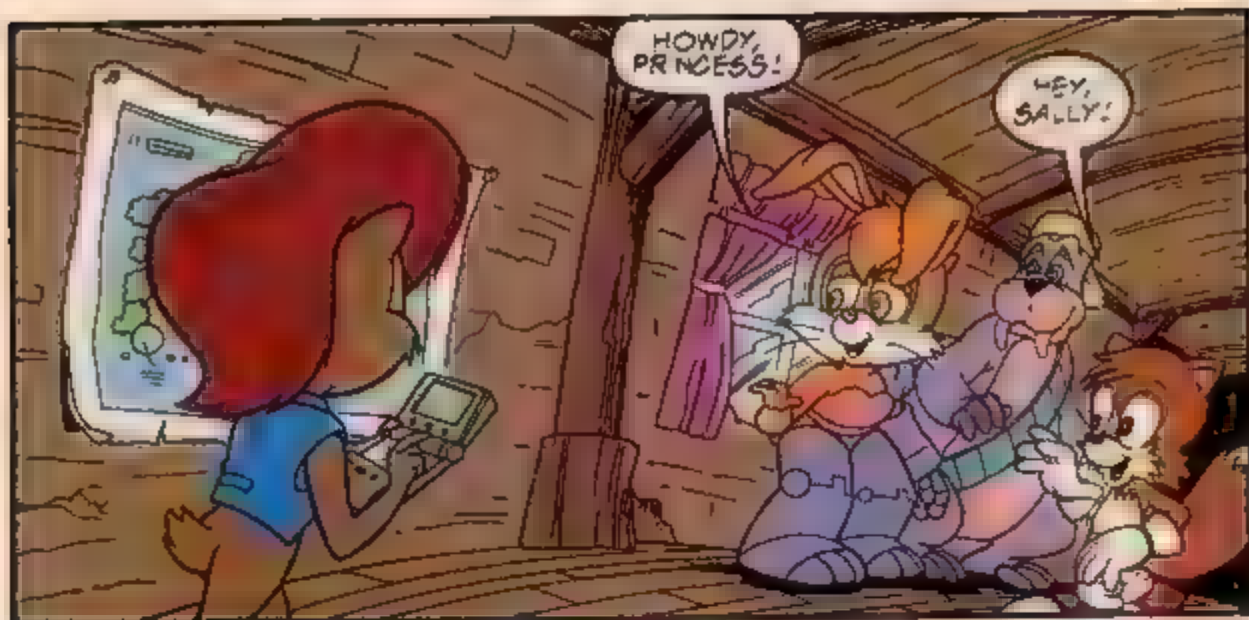
From Canada: Arthur Loria, Shane Buchanan, Sparty Young, Natalie Rachell, Matthew Ross, Andrew Hagan (Spas/Harris thank you) and Trevor Loh.

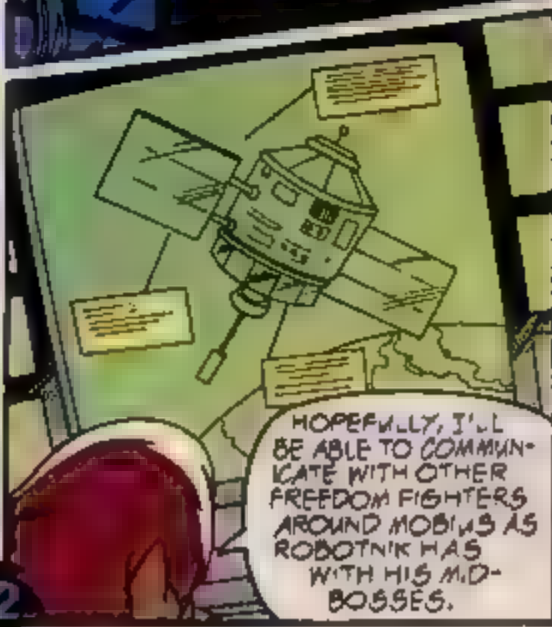
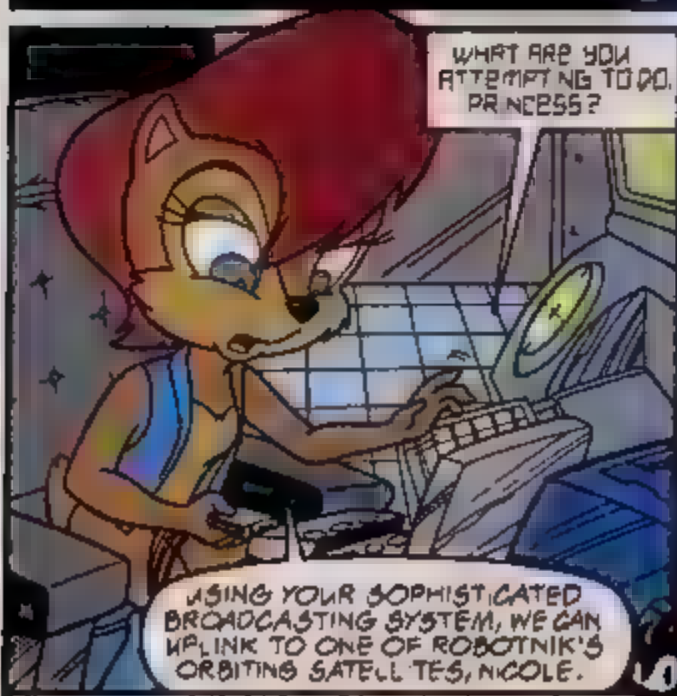
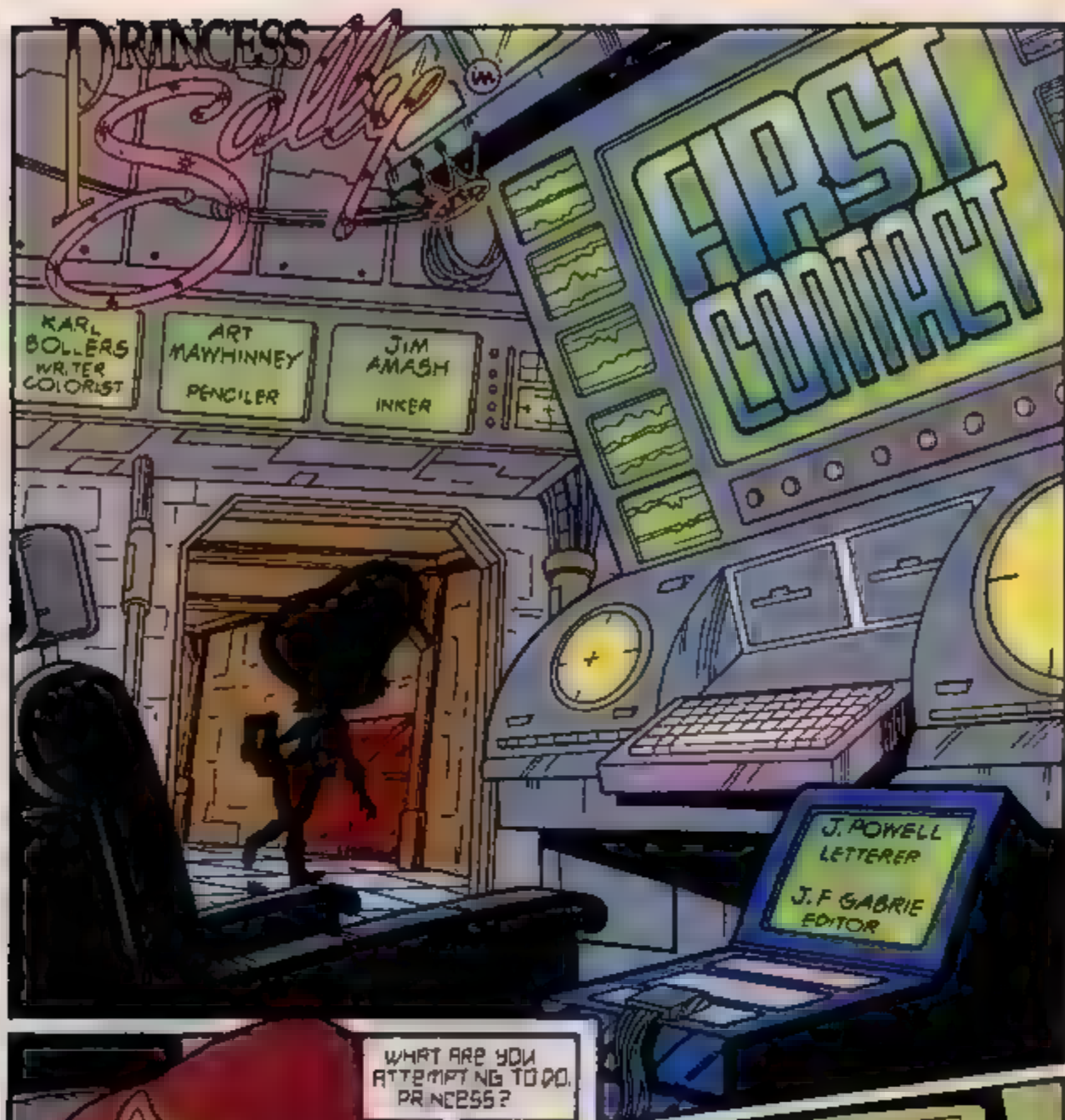
From Australia: Christine Rachel Darrin.

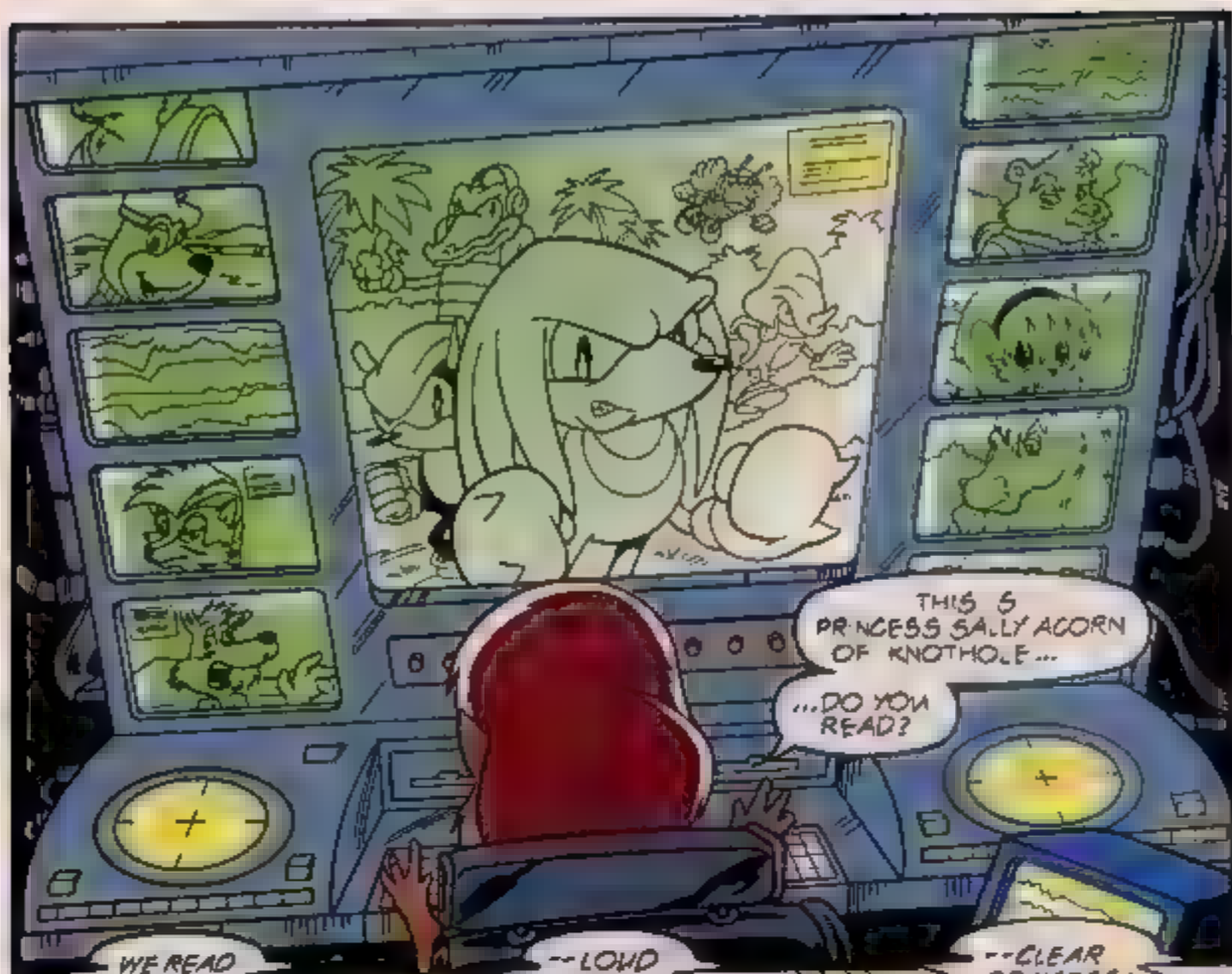
From Singapore: Low Wenhui Sharma and Ken Iorn (age 8).

Thanks
Letter
And

To Our
Writers
Artists







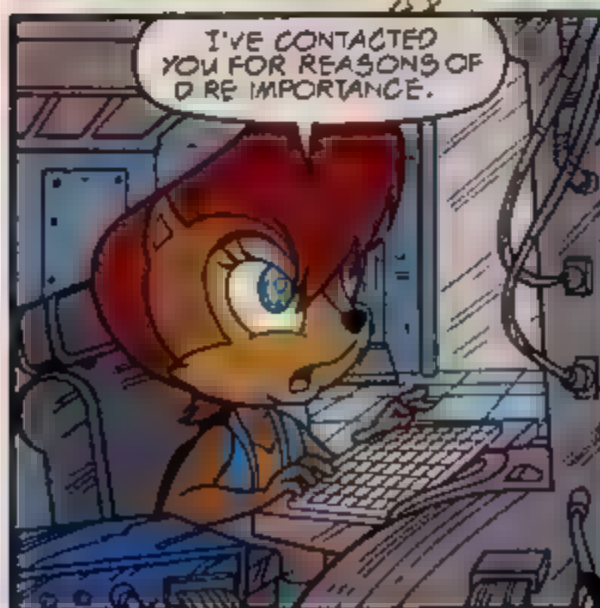
THIS IS
PRINCESS SALLY ACORN
OF KNOTHOLE...

...DO YOU
READ?

WE READ
YOU--

--LOUD
AND--

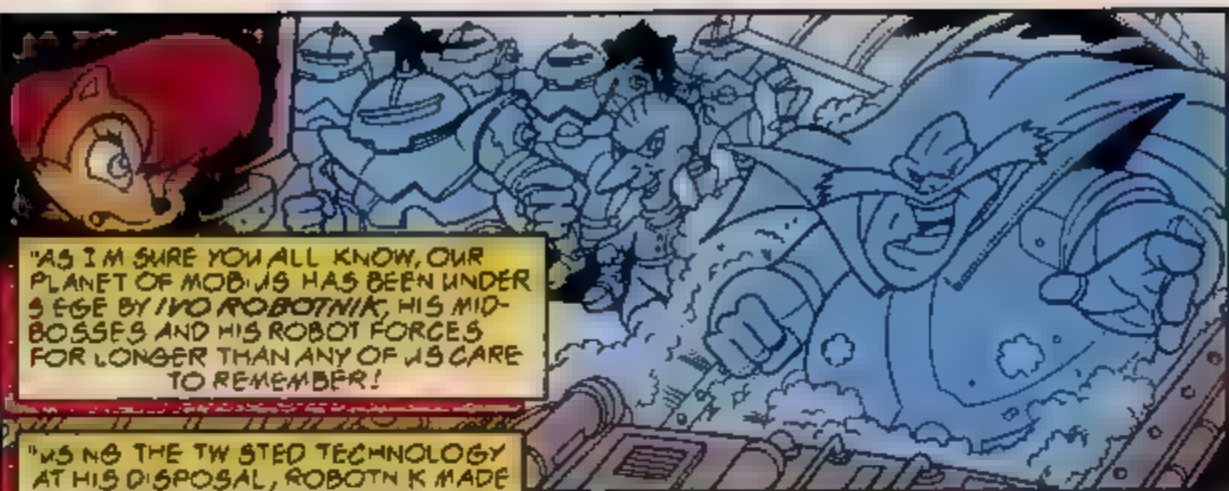
--CLEAR
PRINCESS!



I'VE CONTACTED
YOU FOR REASONS OF
D RE IMPORTANCE.



LET ME
EXPLAIN...



"AS I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW, OUR PLANET OF MOBIUS HAS BEEN UNDER SIEGE BY IVO ROBOTNIK, HIS MID-BOSSSES AND HIS ROBOT FORCES FOR LONGER THAN ANY OF US CARE TO REMEMBER!

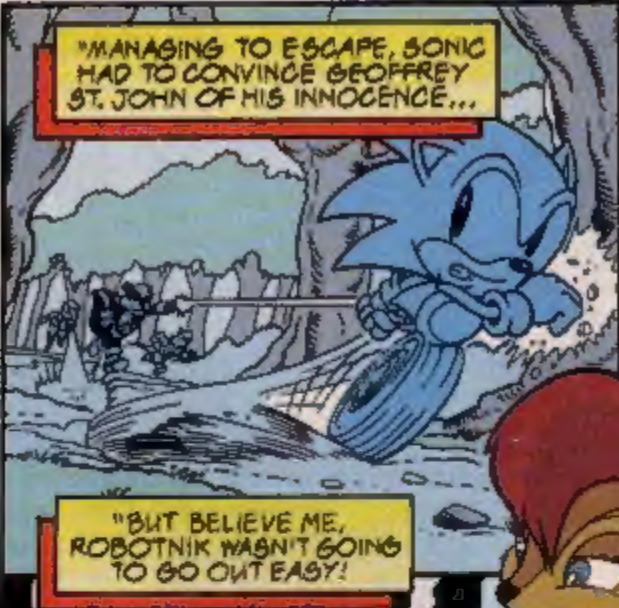
"USING THE TWISTED TECHNOLOGY AT HIS DISPOSAL, ROBOTNIK MADE US BELIEVE THAT MY FATHER, THE KING, HAD FINALLY RETURNED...

"... WHEN IN FACT IT WAS PART OF ROBOTNIK'S PLAN TO--


"--MAKE EVERYONE THINK THAT I'D HAD A FATAL FALL--

"--FRAME SONIC THE HEDGEHOG FOR THE TREACHEROUS DEED--


"--AND FINALLY FIND AND ENSLAVE KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!



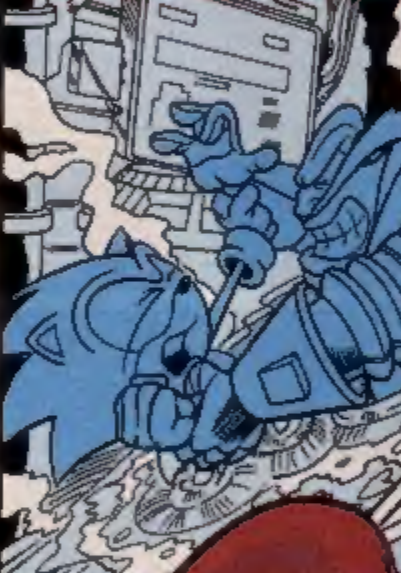
"MANAGING TO ESCAPE, SONIC HAD TO CONVINCE GEOFFREY ST. JOHN OF HIS INNOCENCE..."



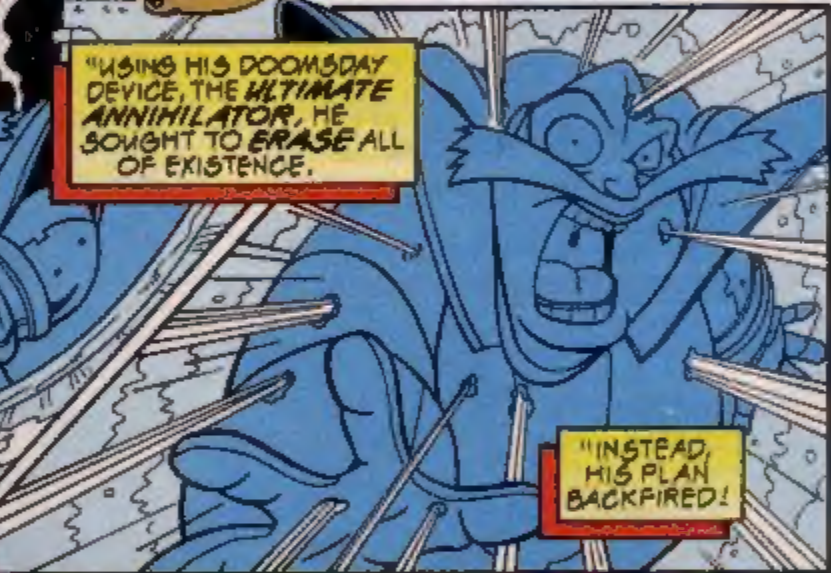
"...BEFORE THEY COULD TEAM UP TO LIBERATE OUR HOME!"



"BUT BELIEVE ME, ROBOTNIK WASN'T GOING TO GO OUT EASY!"



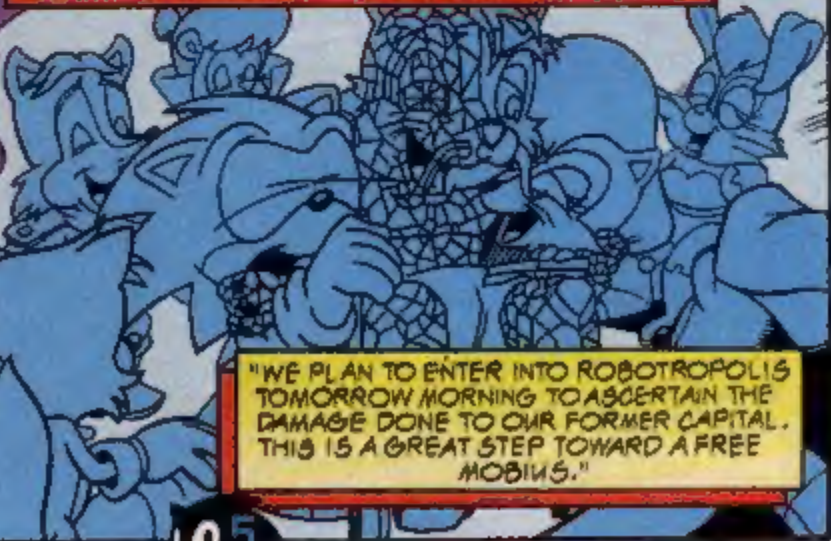
"USING HIS DOOMSDAY DEVICE, THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR, HE SOUGHT TO ERASE ALL OF EXISTENCE."



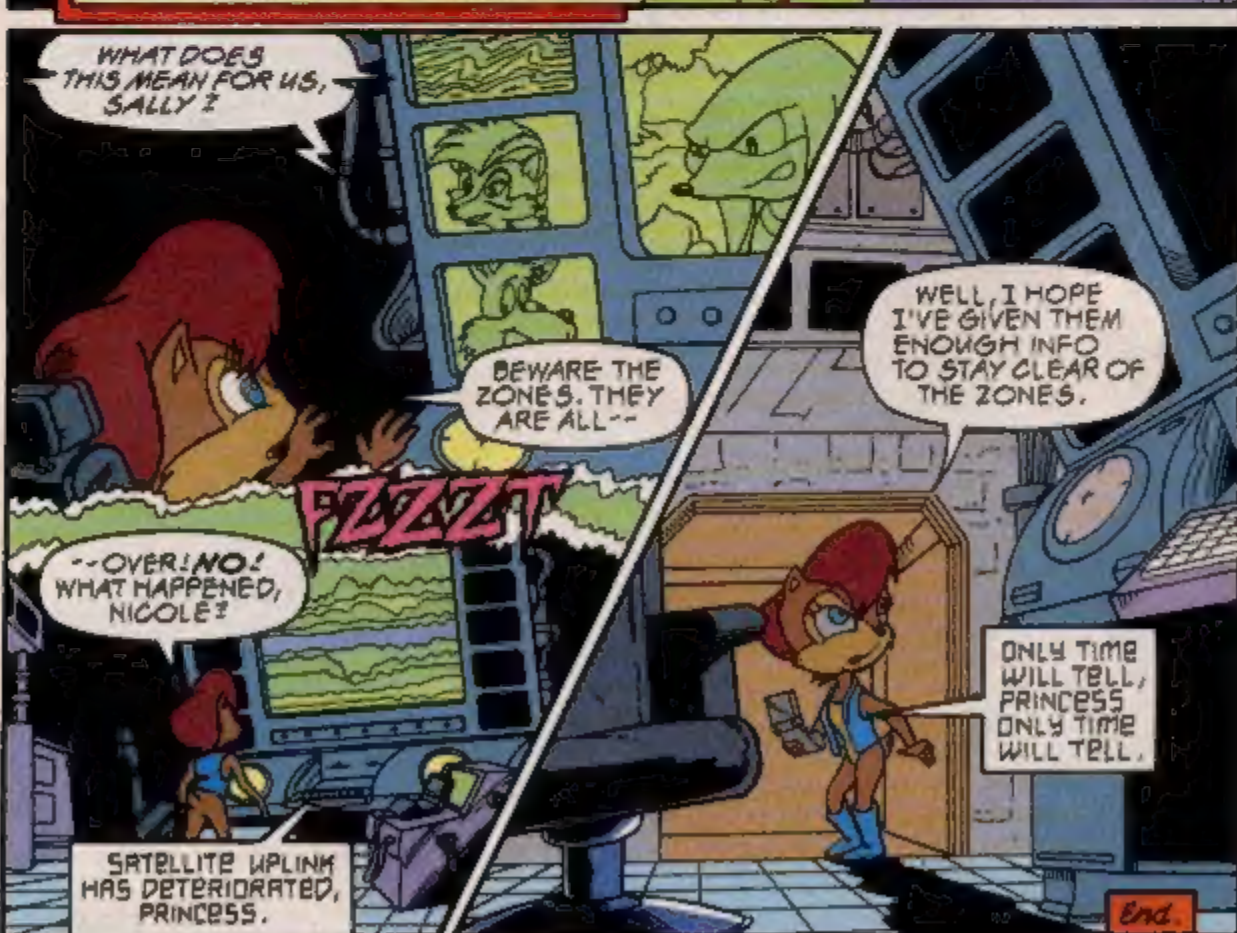
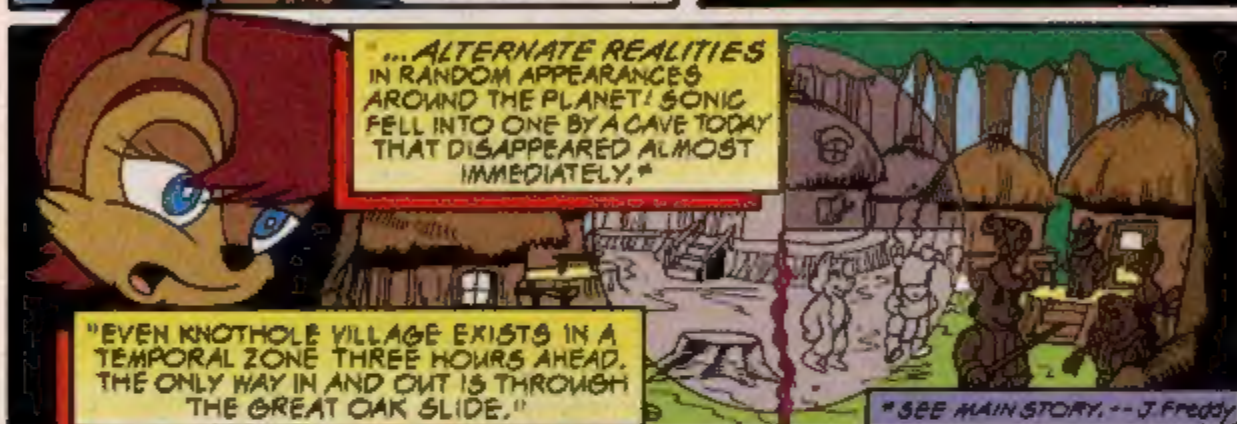
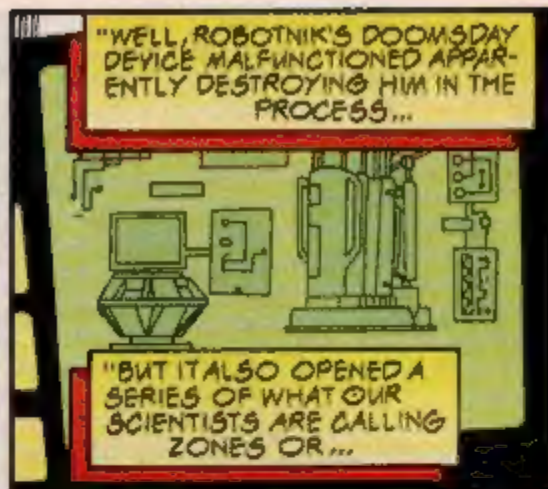
"INSTEAD, HIS PLAN BACKFIRED!"



"I AWAKENED FROM MY DEATH-LIKE COMA TO FIND THAT ROBOTNIK WAS GONE FOREVER, SONIC WAS A HERO, AND MY TRUE FATHER WAS ALIVE!"



"WE PLAN TO ENTER INTO ROBOTROPOLIS TOMORROW MORNING TO ASCERTAIN THE DAMAGE DONE TO OUR FORMER CAPITAL. THIS IS A GREAT STEP TOWARD A FREE MOBIUS."



SONIC-GRAMS

J. Freddy Garrie
Editor

THIS JUST IN!

THE WAITING IS ALMOST OVER!

In two weeks, you will read a comic that has it all! The Freedom Fighters travel into Robotropolis to assess the amount of damage done to their former city of Mobotropolis.

But what kind of surprises await them? Are they friendly or deadly? And what does Snively think of all this? You don't think he's just going to let them stroll in, do you? Also, BIG Sonic news revealed in this issue, so don't miss it!!! Story and art by Ken Penders! **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #2: "Brave New World"** on sale Sept. '97.



SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #2
BRAVE NEW WORLD
On sale SEPTEMBER 1997

...And next month, two stories for the price of one! As the Freedom Fighters handle recent events, Knuckles and

Julie-Su come to town. For what purpose? Read and see for yourself. Written and inked by Ken Penders. Pencils by Art Mawhinney. So you thought Robotnik being gone would be the end of The Freedom Fighters' problems? Not when you have people like Warlord Kodos and the 'supposed' creator of the Zone of Silence, wizard extraordinaire Ixis Naugus, vying for control! Story by Karl Bollers with art by Sam Maxwell and Pam Eklund. **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #53** on sale Sept. '97.

Due to an oversight, last issue ran without the credits, so here they are.

KARL BOLLERS
WRITER/COLORIST
SAM MAXWELL
PENCILER
ANDREW PEPOY
INKER
JEFF POWELL
LETTERER
J. FREDDY GARRIE
EDITOR
VICTOR GORELICK
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RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #53
On sale SEPTEMBER 1997

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Dear Sonic: Gram,

I absolutely loved the return of Mobie The Car-Bear in SONIC #45. I think Spaz did a great job on the cover. Mobie looks great. Sonic was pretty sick trying to give the Guerrilla Gorillas their own weapons. As for KNUCKLES: THE DAAR ECHIDNA mini-series, I can't wait to see how it turns out. I am a big fan of both Knuckles and Sonic, equally. Getta juice!

Michael "Reptile" Davis
Richlands, NC

Spaz thanks you for your comments on his artwork. He aims to please. I got a kick working with Mobie again (even though I can't understand a word he's saying). I'm sure the Gorillas and Mobie can live in peace in the Mobian jungle. Knuckles on the other hand (or fist), is going through a lot of stuff in his book. He'll be taking a break and making a special visit in my book next issue.

Dear Sonic & Knuckles,

Salutations from your #1 fan! I hate to bother you, but I have a few questions: 1) Why do you hate each other so much? 2) If Sally's a chipmunk, why is her father a fox? 3) Where did Archimedes come from? 4) What happened to your dad? Say "Hi" to Tails for my friend Katy the Fox (she thinks he's cute).

Streaks Echidna
St. Augustine, FL

Salutations right back at 'cha. Believe me, questions are not a bother (Antoine's foot odor is). 1) Knuckles and I don't hate each other, we just kind of never saw eye to eye and we annoyed each other for it. But, after sticking by my side in Issue #50, I think he's a righteous dude. 2) Who said Sally's father, King Acorn was a fox? King Acorn is a squirrel and Sally's mom is a chipmunk, which makes Sally a little of both, I guess. 3&4) Check out Knuckles' own series for the answer to those questions.

Dear Sonic,

Yo, what's up? Just thought I'd write in and say "Hi" to everyone. I started my subscription last August. In SONIC #46, Antoine said he thought St. John was the spy. I agree with him. I have some questions: 1) Why do you hate Knuckles? He's one of the good guys, too, you know. I like him as much as I like you. 2) Why did you start that fight in SUPER SONIC VS. HYPER KNUCKLES Special #1? 3) Are there any gemstones more powerful than the Chaos Emeralds? Keep up the good work!

Amanda Coombes
Terre Haute, IN

Welcome aboard the Sonic Express. We love welcoming new readers all the time (even if it was last August), so on to your questions: 1) Why does everyone think I hate Knuckles? I know we started on the wrong foot and got into a few scraps but I don't hate The Red Red. I'll make sure everyone knows it one day. 2) Well, I thought he was going to strike a deal with Robotnik like he did when we first met. He was tricked by Robotnik to fight us so I should have known he wasn't teaming with him again. Chalk one up to experience. 3) I don't know of anything more powerful on Mobius than a Chaos Emerald.

Dear Sonic,

Hey, cool-blue hedgehog! Robotnik's still up to no good! It figures. If you looked like him, you wouldn't exactly want to be a good guy! Anyway, I loved SONIC #46! It was almost as cool as you (and Tails) are! I liked Lupo and The Wolfpack Freedom Fighters. I appreciate Bunnie and Dulcy making an appearance but I'd really like to see Amy flare again. Question time: 1) Will there be a Bunnie mini-series? 2) Are you going to show other Freedom Fighters? 3) Are you going to reprint SONIC #3 & #25? See ya in those comics, compadre! Kendra "Krazy Kat" Bountz (Age 11)
Illness

You're right. Looking like Robotnik would drive me to do bad. Rest assured, never will yours truly ever sprout an orange mustache. It would hurt my style of blueness. Anyway, answer time: 1) No Bunnie mini-series scheduled for the near future. 2) Yes. 3) No plans on reprinting SONIC #25, but you're in luck for SONIC #3, as well as SONIC #0, SONIC #4, and SONIC #13 in a special we're calling "SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: FIRSTS!" This special bookshelf edition will showcase the first appearances of Sonic and The Freedom Fighters (#0), Bunnie Rabbit (#3), Super Sonic (#4) and everyone's favorite guardian, Knuckles The Echidna (#13). Look for it in local shops by the end of September. More about this next month.

P.S. Also in September...
The official launch for the Archie web-site!
Just type
www.archiecomics.com
and you'll get the up-to-the minute info on all your favorite Archie characters plus our very own Sonic & Knuckles! More on this next month!

